

EVANS' NEW MOVES

Commissioner of Pensions Revokes Two Obstructive Orders.

Obnoxious Order 229 One of Them—Col. Evans' Action Calculated to Justify Benevolent Pensioners. Facilitate Work, and Save Much Trouble. Changes of Importance in the Pension Bureau—Reorganization Practically Complete.

Commissioner of Pensions Evans has been making some significant and important changes in the Pension Bureau and not only changes in the Pension Bureau, but it is believed, will expedite work and prove economical. One action which is regarded as the best thing that has been done for the pensioners is the revocation of Order 229, the revocation of the order is of interest not only to pension claimants but to thousands of pensioners and pensioners who are daily called upon to prepare affidavits as evidence in pension cases. Order 229 was abolished at the same time.

The order revoking these orders was issued April 30. Order 229 was issued by Commissioner Loehner, dated June 18, 1893, and provided:

"In the preparation of testimony in support of claims in pension cases all statements affecting the particular case and not merely formal statements, or statements of fact, or statements in the presence of the witness, and from his oral declarations then made to the person who then reduces the testimony to writing, or then prepares the same to be typed, and then such testimony must be embodied in a statement by the witness that such testimony was so written, or prepared for typewriting as the case may be, in his presence, and only from his oral statements then made to the person who then reduces the testimony to writing, and that in making the same he did not use, and was not aided or prompted by any written or printed statement or recital, prepared or dictated by any other person; and not attached as an exhibit to his testimony. Any needless delay in the preparation of such testimony after the oral statement by the witness, or in forwarding the same to this Bureau, and for any material alteration or erasure will be cause for rejecting such testimony."

AN ORDER THAT WAS UNFAIR.

This order was part of the general policy of the late Commissioner Loehner, and hampered the presentation of even the just pension claims to the merits of which there could be no question. It has always been regarded not only as unfair to pension claimants, but also calculated to correct any possible wrongdoings. Order 206 was issued April 26, 1893, by Mr. Murphy, as Acting Commissioner. It read:

"The Secretary of the Pension Bureau, having been revoked, it is ordered that hereafter all pension claims for status in cases where the claimant is a bona-fide resident in the District in which the Pension Bureau is located, if a Senator, resident of the State represented by him, shall be promptly answered."

"Provided, That status shall not be furnished when there is any delay in the presentation of the claim, and in all cases a duplicate of the answer shall be filed in the case, with proper endorsement on said duplicate, showing the name of the Commissioner, to whom status is given and the date of the same."

"The Senator or Representative, in order to receive the benefits of this privilege, will be required to state in the answer that he is a bona-fide resident of his Congressional District (or State, if a Senator), and that the claim is not made at the instigation or request of any pension attorney or claim agent."

Order 206 was supposed to expedite the presentation of claims for the status of pension claimants, but really had no such effect, and entailed a deal more time and clerical work than should have been required. The Commissioner Evans proposes to inaugurate a system that will result in the giving of the desired information more quickly, will save thousands of dollars annually, and will simplify the work greatly. The new system, under which replies rendered necessary by this system have been entailed work by half the force, and in three-fourths of the cases the replies have been sent in new evidence in the form of a printed circular will take the place of these special replies adapted to the various cases.

Commissioner Evans, in speaking of the revocation of these orders, said that the changes were made for the better administration of the pension laws. The Commissioner also indicated the stand THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE took last week in regard to Order 229, and that the order has been the cause of much complaint. It encouraged unscrupulous pension attorneys to present claims that were not what they ought to be, and it often prevented very deserving applicants from getting a just consideration of their claims."

NEW ASSISTANT CHIEFS APPOINTED.

There are other interesting changes taking place at the Pension Bureau.

During the past week the reorganization of the Bureau has been practically completed by the appointment of new Assistant Chiefs of the various Divisions, a new Assistant Chief of the Board of Review, a new Assistant Medical Director, a new Law Clerk, and a new Civil Clerk. The Bureau is now indeed in the hands of the friends of the old soldier. The new Deputy Commissioners, James L. Davenport and Leontine M. Kelley, and the new Assistant Medical Director, a new Law Clerk, and a new Civil Clerk, the former having been in various important positions in the Bureau for many years past, and the latter having been in the Bureau during President Harrison's Administration. The new Medical Director, Dr. J. H. Davenport, the former having been in various important positions in the Bureau for many years past, and the latter having been in the Bureau during President Harrison's Administration. The new Deputy Commissioners, James L. Davenport and Leontine M. Kelley, and the new Assistant Medical Director, a new Law Clerk, and a new Civil Clerk, the former having been in various important positions in the Bureau for many years past, and the latter having been in the Bureau during President Harrison's Administration.

CLERKS MUST DO FULL DUTY.

Commissioner Evans, too, means to have the clerks and other employees of the Pension Bureau observe the same rules as are customary in large business offices outside the Government Service. This is evidenced by his Order No. 332, dated April 23, 1897, in which it was made in last issue, and which is as follows: "All employees of the Pension Bureau, including Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Divisions, will be required to be at their respective desks promptly at 9 a. m. and thereafter during the working hours of the day, unless otherwise employed on official business or excused by proper authority."

"Absence for any fractional part of a day less than half a day must not be granted to any employee by Chiefs of Divisions unless permission is first obtained from the Chief Clerk."

Chiefs of Divisions desiring to be absent during any fractional part of a day will report to the Chief Clerk before leaving the building.

Employees entering the building after 9 a. m. and 1 p. m. will report to the Chief Clerk before going to their respective Divisions.

"In all cases where clerks desire to be excused prior to the morning hour for the remainder of the day, they will be required to apply for leave of absence for one day. If they report for duty at 9 o'clock and remain on duty until lunch time, they may be absent from 1 o'clock by being properly excused by the Chief of Division and have the time taken charged against their annual leave. In exceptional cases only will clerks be permitted to be absent for any other part of a day, and then only by permission of the Chief Clerk."

WEEK IN WASHINGTON.

Events of General Interest in the National Capital.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27.—Secretary Alger made the following statement at the policy of the War Department as to the policy of the Military Academy reservation: "Much has been said about the building of a Catholic chapel on the grounds of the United States Military Academy at West Point. This is a privilege accorded these people by their predecessors, who said that similar privileges would be accorded to others. You can state that any other denomination by their wisdom to build a chapel on the grounds upon the same conditions will be given an equally advantageous site for the building. No favoritism will be shown to any denomination, and no others will be accorded a site equally as good as that of the Catholic chapel."—Rear Admiral Miller, Commandant of the Boston Navy-yard, and now under orders to assume command of the Pacific fleet, will be given another assignment. To-day's orders show that Admiral Miller will not relieve Admiral Beardslee as soon as was expected, and that he will first go to London to represent the United States Navy upon the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee. Then the Admiral will return home, and may go to the Pacific, but the chances are now that his original orders will be revoked and some other sea duty given him, possibly the command of the Chinese or South Atlantic Station.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28.—Commissioner of Indian Affairs Daniel M. Browning relinquished his office and started for his home in East St. Louis, Ill., where he has formed a partnership with ex-Congressman Forman, now Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Mr. Jones, the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is acquainting himself with the duties of the office, and is ready to take active charge upon the first day of May.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29.—President McKinley and his party returned from New York. President McKinley looked very well after the exposure and fatigue he had been subjected to, and enjoyed the trip immensely. Mr. McKinley's entertainment while he was in New York was regal in its style, and everything possible for his comfort and pleasure was provided by the city. There has been a good deal of work accumulating in the President's absence, and soon after his arrival Secretary Foster was looking over the matters on hand and arranging them for the eye of the President.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30.—President McKinley at noon received the new Chinese Minister, Wang Tung Fang, in the Blue Parlor of the White House. The ceremony was formal. Mr. Fang, accompanied by three Secretaries, and the retiring Minister, Mr. Yang Yu, accompanied by two Secretaries, drove over to the White House. The ceremony was formal. Mr. Fang, accompanied by three Secretaries, and the retiring Minister, Mr. Yang Yu, accompanied by two Secretaries, drove over to the White House.

SATURDAY, MAY 1.—The Senate committee which has undertaken the investigation of the workings of the Civil Service law held its second meeting. Letters were presented to the committee by the Secretary of the Postmaster-General Gary recommending that the Civil Service law should be continued, but giving the opinion that it should be modified. The committee recommended no change. F. W. Palmer, the Public Printer, stated that he was the only person not included in the classified service in his office were clerks and laborers, and said: "As applied to this office, which is simply a great manufacturing plant, involving various branches of skilled labor of high grade, the Civil Service rules are an obstruction rather than an aid to efficiency and economy."

SUNDAY, MAY 2.—George Joseph Schwall, a veteran, died at his home, 2437 L street northwest. He was Lieutenant of the Watch at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and was a regular Army during the war of the rebellion, and at the time of his death was a member of the Mexican Veterans' Association, Meade Post, G. A. R.; Hope Lodge, F. A. M., and of the Masonic Relief Association.

MONDAY, MAY 3.—The Tariff Bill is ready for report to the full Finance Committee of the Senate. It is said the bill will not be kept in the full committee for more than a couple of days. Consideration will not begin until the 17th instant, a date nearly two weeks distant. It is not probable that the bill will be made public until it is reported to the Senate, but there are numerous amendments.

CHAT OF THE CORRIDORS.

The new Chinese Minister is afflicted with the same trouble that Li Hung Chang had—curiosity. His judgment of a man's greatness appears to be based primarily on the size of his salary and his age, and if he follows the custom of the Vice-Regent he will find out these things about every distinguished visitor who calls on him. Judging, however, Wu Ting Fang is a really intelligent and dignified man, and in recent interview with a local newspaper man he turned interviewer himself, and asked many questions that showed he intended to become acquainted with the city and the Government at a galloping rate. He is a diplomat of high caliber, and it was in recognition of his services in the making of the last commercial treaty between his country and Japan that he was sent to Washington.

Several interesting stories are related of the late Judge Holman. His activity in the line of economy often brought down upon his head the ridicule of other Congressmen, and they were watchful of chances to defeat the measures he advocated. It is told that on one occasion Judge Holman was in favor of a certain appropriation for Indianapolis. While he was expressing himself, Mr. Dockery, whose pseudo-reform movements at one time scared the Department clerks nearly out of their wits, referred to a recent bill introduced by Judge Holman, and exclaimed, and exclaimed, and exclaimed, "The Chairman's sudden change of tone reminds me strongly of those lines from Byron: 'Tis sweet to hear the watch-dog's honest bark by deep-mouthed welcome as we draw near home.'" The Indianapolis appropriation did not get through. But Judge Holman did not lose many opportunities of doing good, when he believed that action on his part would result in relieving want. It is said that one night, while speaking at Manchester, Ind., he concluded his remarks with: "My dear friends, before I

finish I must call your attention to the case of Widow Jones, who has lost her cow. It was the principal support of herself and little children. I will give \$10 toward buying her another cow. Just pass around the hat among the neighbors." And the neighbors took the suggestion.

Representatives J. J. Lentz, of Ohio, and E. E. Robbins, of Pennsylvania, happened to meet

face to face the other day for the first time since the session began. "Well, here we are," said both almost in the same breath, as they shook hands. And then they explained to their fellow-members that a long time ago they were at a law school together in New York City, and became quite intimate, sharing the same room and indulging in the same pleasures. They separated upon graduation, and Robbins told Lentz he was going to run for Congress some day, whereupon Lentz announced that that was just what he was going to do. "We will meet some day in the halls of Congress," said one, as they parted. So they did.

Two or three times a week a magnificent equipage is observed standing along the driveway fronting the White House, drawn sometimes by two immense sorrels and again by large dark bays. An impressive-looking coachman handles the reins, and beside him sits a clean-shaven footman, who is never seen to smile. This carriage has been coming to the White House since the first few days after the inauguration. It is the outfit of Cornelius Vanderbilt, the millionaire New Yorker, who has been making Washington his home for the past three months.

Little Miss Vanderbilt, not over a dozen years old, to whom Mrs. McKinley has taken a fancy, comes to the White House and entertains herself and Mrs. McKinley. She is accompanied by a maid, and the footman stands at attention under the port-cochere while his mistress is inside. The Vanderbilt carriages are the finest ever seen in Washington, and Miss Vanderbilt comes in a different one every week.

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GRANT POST CELEBRATES.

The anniversary of Grant's birthday was celebrated by U. S. Grant Post, 12, of this city. The program was musical and literary.

Added interest was derived from the presence of Commander Thomas S. Hopkins and his staff, Pension Commissioner Henry Clay Evans, and a number of visiting comrades. Mr. Evans was drafted into service, and made a brief speech in which he had come to Washington to take charge of an important function of the Government. He had come to do his duty to the old soldiers—to carry out the law. It is his duty, he said, to see how he might prevent the granting of pensions, but, so far as he could, within the law, to grant such pensions as are prescribed by the law.

A DEAD DEPOSITOR.

He Causes a Run on a Bank.

Nearly a Panic.

DEATH AT THE BANK DOOR.

This is a world full of peculiar happenings. The other day in an Eastern city a wealthy man went to his bank to draw out \$20. The bank, which was the leading one in the city, was situated on one of the busiest streets. The wealthy depositor, while in the act of going up the steps to the front door of the bank, suddenly dropped dead of heart disease in full sight of passers by.

There was an immediate rush to his assistance. Men crowded around him and gave each other advice and suggestions. Other passers by seeing the crowd in front of the bank door, rushed up to ascertain the cause, and thus added to the crowd. Still other passers by followed this example, until the street in front of the bank was blocked with a surging mob of men. Not one man in a hundred in the crowd

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ARMY AND NAVY.

Whatever may be the outcome of the war between Greece and Turkey, the administration will not modify the orders to Admiral Selfridge, commanding the American fleet, with regard to the part his ships will take. The Admiral, when it became apparent that the war was inevitable, ordered that his squadron along the Turkish coast, and to avoid the neighborhood of the foreign fleets, in order that the United States might not be brought into contact with the powers in the Mediterranean to the war. Four ships comprise the squadron now, and by May 15th, the Raleigh, will be on hand. The withdrawal of the Cincinnati on the arrival of the Raleigh will be delayed, however, for the present. Neither will the Minneapolis, which it was proposed to order home, be relieved for the present. Five ships are said to be required to give adequate patrol to the long stretch of Turkish coast, and to visit the Consulates and communicate with the Minister at Constantinople.

There are bright prospects that every Cadet in the final graduating class this year at Annapolis will find a berth in the Navy. The line, Engineer or Marine Corps. The present class numbers 27 line men and 12 in the Engineer division. Two of the line Cadets are already named for the line. The other two are named for the Engineer division. The plan is to contract the naval militia of two or three States at a given point, go into camp and receive instructions in shore and sea duty. At times to be later determined, vessels of the Navy are to visit the camp and take the recruits for a short cruise to sea.

With the approaching completion of the battleship Iowa and of a number of the small gunboats, the need of more men for the vessels of the Navy is made apparent, and to meet the needs of the service, (it being better possible to increase the number of sailors), Secretary Long has put out a call for the commission several of the big engineers, as to be able to use their men to make up the crews for the newly-acquired vessels. The ram Katahdin is already out of commission, and as soon as the Grand Monarque is ready, she will be laid up. Her sister ship, the fleet Minneapolis, will follow to the dock. She is now in Europe, but will come home in a short time. With the crews of these vessels the Department will have a thousand men available for the other ships.

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I have always been a friend of your valuable paper. Comrade McElroy's "Andersonville" has caused me to go down to the bottom of my pocket for the last dollar in my life, and my family may enjoy the privilege of reading that very interesting story. I cannot recommend it too highly to all old comrades and their children. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE should be in the home of every old soldier.—Geo. C. THOMPSON, Albia, Iowa.

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The "Better Half."

A SPRING PASTEL.
Borne northward from some far Aegean,
The south-wind lapping coral shores,
Skims the white-crested, emerald sea
And stirs the pink anemone.

It greets the gurgling rivulet
Whose limpid, crystal waters fret
Soft, fern-fringed banks in sportive flow
From brook lights to fields below.

The sweet song-music from the dell
Pours forth its mellow-miracle,
Perched high upon the greenling fir—
Nature's insistent chorister.

And now from meadows far away,
The west-wind, at the close of day,
Brings lingering, when dark clouds lower,
The patter of the Summer shower.

Mrs. McKinley's favorite color is blue, so forget-me-nots are blossoming all about the conservatories and gardens of the White House.

Washington society will miss Madame Yang Yu, the wife of the Chinese Minister, who sails away this week with Yang Yu for Paris, on their way to St. Petersburg, his new post. Madame Yang Yu has presided very gracefully over the ceremonies and festivities at the Legation, and has been one of the most picturesque figures in Washington. It seems quite natural to us that she should do this, and that she should make calls and give and attend receptions and dinner parties, but to the Chinese mind it is a most remarkable thing. When she came here she had not only to learn a new and troublesome language, but she had to break away from all the traditions of her country. There, as a rule, the ladies live secluded and apart from general society and are not expected to be where men are. In spite of all this she has been a graceful, cordial hostess, and even when she could use our language she presided with ease and dignity at the state dinners. Her receptions have rivaled those at the White House in popularity. The Chinese ladies have been an unfailing source of delight to Washingtonians. They are the quaintest little things imaginable, frolicking about in their long, stiff satin costumes.

The New York State Legislature has forbidden the sale of dead bird skins with the plumage attached, and hats so adorned are declared contraband and unsalable.

Women who carry the art of dressing to a fine point, never wear gloves of dressed kid after 12 o'clock noon. There may be occasional exceptions in favor of the thin white or pale gray gloves, but even these are being gently dropped. The suede gloves are certainly more becoming than the glass, but are not so durable. Colored gloves—that is green, red and blue ones—are utterly undesirable, as every woman now knows. Women of good taste wear the browns, tans—the paler shades of gray—dark is always ugly—black and white. The reddish-brown gloves of heavy kid are liked for bicycling and for any heavy wear.

It is a pretty fancy to have the bridesmaids at a wedding carry parasols instead of bouquets. The sun-shades should be of white silk or satin, frilled with chiffon and the handles decorated with ribbon of the bride's color.

It is recorded that a clever girl crocheted a macramé Tam O'Shanter hat for herself, stiffened it, sewed it to a pretty, straight trim from an old sailor, put a quill in the side and a twist of velvet ribbon around the crown, wore it, and looked as sweet as a peach; but she was a very pretty maiden anyhow.

"Cock's comb red" is a name given to the very brightest of all the reds.

English walking-hats of linen are trimmed round the crown with a fold of eun net, and have a soft dove-colored wing or bunch of quills at the left side. They are very stylish and becoming to a woman who has either a pretty or an aristocratic face, and are most unbecoming to homely women. The lines are too severe for the ordinary face.

Germans for hat trimming are very pretty. The soft, gray-green leaves and the little pink buds are very like Nature's own. A wreath of the leaves and buds round the crown, with geranium pink buds and a spray of the leaves for the high trimming, makes a charming combination with a black straw hat.

The sailor hats trimmed with plaid ribbon and a bunch of quills are particularly the property of the 16-year-old girls.

Straw ribbons and cockades, ugly and awkward, are brought forth as trimmings for the sailor and English walking hats; but the woman who knows, uses ribbons for her hands and bows.

This is the season to freshen up one's old black straw hat with the aid of shoe polish, and afterwards it will need a good airing. After the hat has been blackened it should be set to dry, with soft paper crushed into the crown to hold it in shape, and with the brim pulled securely to a firm, perfectly flat surface. The crown and brim will sag unmercifully if these precautions are not taken.

A black lace straw hat, face with gathered net and trimmed with black ribbon and pretty lavender and purple orchids, is charming.

Many of the new sailor hats have crowns entirely too high to be becoming to any but extraordinary women.

As to shoes, the sharply-pointed toes are decidedly out of fashion, and a well-rounded toe is now "the thing." Russet boots and Oxford ties are more like the black leather. With only a little care the russet leather, if of good quality, is kept clean and neat, while the black is a continual care. There are several successful dressings and pastes that cleanse and polish the russet leather, and in ordinary wear one dressing will last at least a fortnight. The main thing in cleaning this leather is to use soft woolen strips and to rub the shoes well. The polish is not like that for black shoes, which you put on with a sponge, and which shines forth immediately. The russet polish has to be rubbed into a shine. Another point as to footwear is that buttoned low-cut shoes are never worn by well-dressed women; the low-cut shoe must lose.

When Daisy was sick, she gave her Castoria.
When she was a child, she gave her Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had children, she gave them Castoria.

Who can think of some simple thing to put to rest that toothache?
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